

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENNA 00992 051458Z

60

ACTION INR-10

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EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IPEC, AU, PINR

SUBJECT: ENERGY: BIO DATA ON OPEC SECRETARIAT PRINCIPALS

REF: A) VIENNA A-58; B) ALGIERS A-231, 12/5/72; C) VIENNA A-57

FOLLOWING ARE THUMBNAIL SKETCHES OF OPEC SECRETARIAT PRINCIPALS:

1. DR. ABDERRAHMAN KHENE (PRONOUNCED KHAN), SECRETARY GENERAL SINCE JANUARY 1, 1973. ALGERIAN, BORN COLLO, AGE 42, MARRIED, FOUR CHILDREN. MEDICAL STUDIES PARIS; MEDICAL DOCTORATE, UNIVERSITY OF ALGIERS, 1968. FERVENT ALGERIAN NATIONALIST, HELD VARIOUS POLITICAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND OIL NEGOTIATION POSTS IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF ALGERIA. DESCRIBED BY CLYDE FARNSWORTH IN NY TIMES STORY (JULY 8, 1973) AS "... YOUTHFUL, LEAN, CONSERVATIVELY DRESSED, A MITE STIFF AND FORMAL." FLUENT FRENCH (PREFERRED FOREIGN LANGUAGE), HALTING ENGLISH LEARNED IN UK IN INTENSIVE PREPPING FOR OPIC VIENNA POST. (SEE REF A FOR UNCLASSIFIED OPEC CURRICULUM VITAE ON KHENE.)

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH INDEED SOMEWHAT STIFF AND FORMAL, DR. KHENE IS EXTREMELY POLITE AND CHARMING ON CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS. HE IS SENSITIVE ABOUT OPEC'S IMAGE. HE SEEMS TO HAVE OVERCOME
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00992 051458Z

HERE REPUTATION HE HELD IN ALGERIA FOR POOR ADMINISTRATIVE

ABILITY (SEE REF B). HAS MADE IMPRESSION HERE AS INTELLIGENT AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OPEC SPOKESMAN.

2. DR. MAHJOOB A. HASSANAIN, CHIEF OF ECONOMICS DEPT. SINCE FALL, 1973. SAUDI ARABIAN, BORN MECCA, MARRIED, FOUR CHILDREN, THREE IN BRITISH SCHOOL, VIENNA. GRADUATE SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY, HOLDS TWO M.A.'S AND DOCTORATE IN ECONOMICS FROM UNIV. PITTSBURGH (1971), WHERE HE ALSO TAUGHT WHILE EARNING DEGREE. FOR TWO YEARS PRIOR TO JOINING OPEC DR. HASSANAIN WAS HEAD, ECONOMICS DEPT., SAUDIA ARABIAN PETROLEUM MINISTRY. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH.

COMMENT: DR. HASSANAIN TOLD EMBOFF HE CONSIDERS PITTSBURGH "SECOND HOME". IT DIFFICULT AS YET TO ASSESS HIS EFFECTIVENESS, HE JOINED OPEC AT BUSY TIME, AND IT APPEARS THAT HE AND COLLEAGUES ARE TRYING TO KEEP HEADS ABOVE WATER IN FILLING DAILY INFORMATIONAL NEEDS AND REQUESTS AT OPEC.

3. CYRUS SAMII (PRONOUNCED SAM-EE-EE), EOEC CHIEF OF TECHNICAL DEPARTMENT, WITH OPEC FOR SEVERAL YEARS. IRANIAN, LATE THIRTIES, SINGLE. ENGINEERING STUDIES IRAN AND SOUTHWESTERN U.S.), ENERGY SPECIALIST AND LECTURER. EXTENSIVE TRAVELS IN U.S. (ESPECIALLY CALIFORNIA) AND EUROPE, EXCELLENT ENGLISH, INCLUDING TECHNICAL VOCABULARY. WELL-DRESSED AND ATTRACTIVE BACHELOR WITH SENSE OF HUMOR.

COMMENT SAMII IS ADEPT AT PRESENTING OPEC VIEWPOINTS AND SEEMS TECHNICALLY KNOWLEDGEABLE. EASILY APPROACHABLE AND FRIENDLY TO U.S., BUT IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS NEVER VEERS FROM STRICT OPEC LINE. HE CLAIMS TO UNDERSTAND AMERICAN CONCEPTS OF PUBLIC AND PRESS RELATIONS AND IN FACT SEEMS EMPLOY THEM TO ADVANTAGE.

4. ABDUL AMIR KUBBAH, ACTING CHIEF, INFORMATION DEPT., JOINED OPEC IN 1968, BECAME ACTING CHIEF IN DECEMBER 1973. KUBBAH, AN IRAGI WHO IS PROBABLY IN MID OR LATE FIFTIES, SPENT NINE YEARS IN U.S. TAKING GRADUATE COURSES AT NYU AND WORKING IN PRIVATE BUSINESS. HE ALSO LIVED IN LIBYA. EXCELLENT ENGLISH. HE IS FRIENDLY AND SEEMS MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING WITH REPORTERS THAN WAS HIS PREDECESSOR, HOOSHANG AMOUZEGAR. (SEE VIENNA A-57
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PAGE 03 VIENNA 00992 051458Z

TRANSMITTING RECENT KUBBAH PRESS INTERVIEW).

4. ADVANCE COPY UNCLASSIFIED VIENNA AIRGRAM ON OPEC ORGANS AND ACTIVITIES AIRMAILED TO EB/ORF/FSE, BENNSKY FEB 4.
HUMES

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